

# Final frontier: Schriever provides critical assets to military operations

2nd Lt. Michaela Herring  
50th Space Wing, public affairs

Technology has changed the face of warfare throughout all history, and the increasing role that space assets play in modern military operations is no exception to that rule. Space resources play a critical role in Operation Iraqi Freedom by providing key military information throughout the full military spectrum.

The use of space assets allow the military to be intimately involved in the timing and navigation of precision guided munitions, early defense warning of theatre missile-launches and communications capabilities throughout the area of operations. Schriever Air Force Base, Colo. is the home to the 50th Space Wing, which commands and controls the satellite systems providing these resources.

The Global Positioning System is the world's largest military operation satellite constellation and provides naviga-

tional data and precision-timing. GPS is operated and controlled by the 2nd Space Operation Squadron.

"GPS allows users to target their location anywhere in the world," said Capt. Caroline Berroyer, GPS crew commander. "GPS provides the accurate deployment of weapons such as joint directed attack munitions. Its ability to provide continuous three-dimensional navigation around the world without the hindrance of position, weather or timing makes it a most valuable system."

The first wave of Operation Iraqi Freedom saw an increased need for the GPS satellite signal. "On March 19 we increased our mission to include more up to date information to all GPS users," said Berroyer. "The increased effort allows users the most accurate information possible for the military and theatre campaigns."

"Guiding smart bombs to their targets and helping to reduce collateral damage to non-military targets [shows that] GPS saves lives," said Capt. Brian Haug, GPS crew

commander.

Detection and early warning of missile launches is extremely important to current military operations; it allows American forces to move out of an area of danger or take cover prior to missile detonation. The space system that aids in this advanced warning is the Defense Support Program, which is commanded and controlled by the 1st SOPS.

The DSP provides real-time, tactical and strategic, data notifying warfighters of potentially threatening launches, said Staff Sgt. Chris Cumming, 1st SOPS. "Ultimately we save the Department of Defense's number one resource - its people."

"The 1st SOPS conducted 50 sorties on various satellites on March 19," said Lt. Col. Ed Wilson, 1st SOPS commander. "Our operation's tempo remained fairly constant, but the reason we do what we do was bought into focus - warfighters supporting warfighters around the world. We have a direct impact on operations in theatre."

The early detection of missile launches is effective only when properly communicated to the troops at risk. The ability for commanders and troops to communicate to one another is widely recognized as the key to success in military operations.

The 3rd SOPS operates the Defense Satellite Communication System that provides theatre communication lines for land, air and naval units, they are the backbone of intercontinental military communications, said Lt. Col. Ron Huntley, 3rd SOPS operations officer.

Operation Iraqi Freedom is being fought in an area where there is very little commercial satellite or cable communication available, said Huntley.

"Our squadron motto: 'you can't bomb without comm [communications],' is validated everyday," said Huntley. "If decision-makers and military leadership cannot communicate their orders, then they don't get executed. Therefore, 3rd SOPS is always part of the fight."

"If we aren't here to do our job, users could lose more than just communications," said Staff Sgt. Stacy Linton, 3rd SOPS space system's operator. "All members of 3rd SOPS know that lives depend upon us to do our jobs right everyday. We don't support the warfighters...we are the warfighters!"

The Milstar communication satellite constellation is another space asset that aids military operations. Milstar is commanded by the 4th SOPS and provides secure, jam-resistant satellite communications to military users of all services, from the President of the United States to the solitary special operations troop, said Lt. Col. Steve Smith, 4th SOPS director of operations.

"Milstar provides joint communications to users within the Iraqi theater and even between theatres," said Smith. "Users include long-range bombers enroute or returning from their targets, carrier battle groups coordinating missile strikes, Army division and brigades on the move, special

## Romp, stomp



photo by Airman 1st Class Mike Meares

Staff Sgt. Clark Tinan, 310th Security Forces Squadron, an Air Force Reserve unit assigned to Schriever Air Force Base, familiarizes himself with a four-wheel drive all terrain vehicle Friday as part of his training. Clark is on a team from his unit that is preparing to deploy.

see SPACE, Page 4.

WEEKEND OUTLOOK

www.weatherchannel.com

27°

Fri.

Mostly Cloudy

14°

40°

Sat.

Mostly Cloudy

17°

51°

Sun.

Mostly Cloudy

29°

SKY SOX MILITARY APPRECIATION NIGHT APRIL 11, GET TICKETS NOW!

BLIZZARD

Storm hits Colorado, but does not slow Schriever down.

See News, Page 4.

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

News from the front lines in IRAQ.

See Pages 6-7.



# Street Talk

## Do you think major sporting events should continue during war times?

**Airman 1st Class Grace Barajas**  
1st Space Operations Squadron

"Yes, because these events are symbolic of our home and our freedom."



**Tech. Sgt. Douglas Bradshaw**  
850th SCS

"It's a great thing. Sports help to keep deployed troops spirits up and brings them closer to home."

**1st Lt. Tony Muro III**  
50th Operations Support Squadron

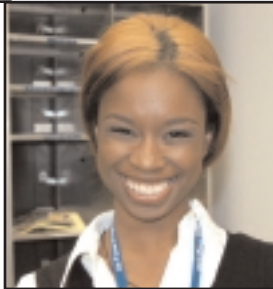
"Yes, sporting events are a major means of entertainment for troop's engaged in the war. Canceling sporting events would only add to the disruption we are experiencing from a war."



**Maj. Brad Buxton**  
Detachment 46 commander  
"I enjoy the NCAA basketball tournament, but the war puts things in perspective."

**Genevieve Goodridge**  
50th Space Communications Squadron

"No. We should be focused on the realities of war. We have people who might not come back."



photos by Staff Sgt. Phyllis Duff

# Secretary, chief address Operation Iraqi Freedom

**WASHINGTON** — The following is a joint message from Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper:

"As our nation calls upon its armed forces to meet this next challenge in the war on terrorism, the men and women of the U.S. Air Force will play a pivotal role in striking our enemies, defending our coalition forces, and protecting our allies. As you have always done, you will perform your duties with honor, and with the knowledge that our nation's security depends upon the excellence and professionalism of every airman in our Air Force.

"Ours is the greatest joint warfighting force ever assembled, and our nation is blessed to have over 700,000 active,

Guard, Reserve, and civilian airmen taking the battle to the enemy and securing our homeland. You, the brave warriors who voluntarily risk your lives to protect our values and way of life, are the reason we will prevail in this fight. The American people have the utmost confidence and trust in you, they support you, and are proud of your dedication. We couldn't be more proud of your service, and are both honored and humbled to lead this force.

"In this time of conflict and great sacrifice, the admiration, thoughts, and prayers of our entire nation are with you and your families. Do your duty to the best of your ability and we will secure victory, for the sake of our nation and freedom-loving people around the globe."

## Satellite Flyer needs your opinion

2nd Lt. Michaela Herring  
50th Space Wing Public Affairs

The Satellite Flyer staff is requesting your help. A comprehensive survey on the base newspaper is being conducted and we need you to tell us your thoughts. The survey is open to all readers—active duty, civilians, contractors and families.

The survey this year is going to be

on-line. Hard copies will be made available upon request. The survey takes roughly 10-15 minutes to complete and is anonymous. The link is located on the Schriever Air Force Base intranet home page, it will also be located on the base's public site [www.schriever.af.mil](http://www.schriever.af.mil).

In order to best serve our reading public, we need to know what you think. The 50th Space Wing Public

Affairs staff is dedicated to creating a quality publication to meet the wing commander's goals of informing, motivating and recognizing his award winning team.

So please, take the brief amount of time required to voice your opinion and help direct what services and areas the newspaper staff can provide for you.

### The lighter side of Schriever

# "Golfing of the gods"



## 7th Hole-Par 5, dog leg left, 520 miles

Artwork by Staff Sgt. Michael Dodge

### SCHRIEVER AFB EDITORIAL STAFF

**COL. MICHAEL SELVA**, 50TH SPACE WING COMMANDER

Satellite Flyer editorial staff:

**Ed Parsons**, Chief of Public Affairs

**2nd Lt. Michaela Herring**, Chief, Internal Information

**Skip Grubelnik**, Layout & Design

**1st Lt. Jeremy Eggers**, Deputy Chief of Public Affairs

**Airman 1st Class Mike Meares**, Editor

The Satellite Flyer is published by American Graphics Inc. DBA Gowdy Printcraft Press, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with Schriever Air Force Base and the 50th Space Wing. This Commercial Enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the Satellite Flyer are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the U.S. government, Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force or American Graphics Inc. DBA Gowdy Printcraft Press. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. The printer reserves the right to reject any advertisements.

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 50th Space Wing Public Affairs office. The editor reserves the right to edit articles to conform to Air Force policy and Associated Press style. All photos are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated. Paid advertising is accepted by the publisher at 634-1593.

Deadline for all stories is noon Thursday, one week prior to the desired publication date. Submissions can be dropped off to the Public Affairs office, Bldg. 210 Room. 316; faxed to 567-5306; e-mailed to [flyer@schriever.af.mil](mailto:flyer@schriever.af.mil); or mailed to 210 Falcon Pkwy. Ste. 2102, Schriever Air Force Base, Colo., 80912-2102. Refer questions to the Satellite Flyer staff at 567-5041.

# Schriever TOP 3 'Pick of the week'

Senior Airman 1st Class  
Latoya Younger

Unit: 3rd Space  
Operations  
Squadron

Duty Title:  
Personnel  
Technician

Time in Service:  
Almost 3 years

Hometown: Denver, Colo.

Best part of the Air Force: The people

Life off duty: I mostly go to school and  
study

Supervisor says: An outstanding per-  
former and airman. I count on her pro-  
fessionalism and expertise daily.



The "Pick of the Week" is an ongoing feature whereby  
airmen are recognized by the Schriever Top 3 for their  
leadership potential and mission accomplishments.

# Commitment to caring



photo by Airman 1st Class Mike Meares

Col. Mike Selva, 50th Space Wing commander, shows his "Commitment to Caring" with 2nd Lt. Mary Froehlich, 50th Civil Engineer Squadron, as he makes a donation for the Air Force Assistance Fund campaign that starts this week. Tax deductible contributions can be made through cash, check or payroll deduction to Air Force Aid Society, Air Force Enlisted Foundation, Air Force Village Indigent Widow's Fund, and the General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation. On various days, information and sign-up tables will be located at the portals and Bldg. 210, starting Tuesday. For more information, contact your unit's AFAF representative or visit [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/votefund](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/votefund). The campaign will run through May 9.

## Summary Court officer

If anyone has claims against the estate of Master Sgt. Gary W. Stell contact 2nd Lt. Robert Taylor at 567-3817.



# Blizzard: No match for Schriever

Airman 1st Class Mike Meares  
50th Space Wing Public Affairs

In what has been deemed one of the worst Colorado blizzards in a century, airmen at Schriever Air Force Base endured the elements March 19 for more than 20 hours to provide military commanders in the field continuous combat capability from space.

Some airmen were stuck out at Schriever pulling two and three shifts because the access to the base was cut off in all directions.

March 19 was not only the day Colorado was buried in snow in some parts, but it was also the beginning of the Operation Iraqi Freedom. It took a total team effort from squadrons to continue the mission without skipping a beat.

“It’s everybody working together in their own unique way,” said Col. Mike Selva, 50th Space Wing commander. “It doesn’t matter whether you are wearing green bags, BDUs or civilian clothes; whether you are an operator, firefighter security forces, civil servant or contractor, it takes all of Team 5-0 to get the mission done.”

The space operators could not provide uninterrupted satellite communications without the communications squadrons making the connection. Communications could not make the con-

nections without the civil engineers ensuring the electricity and heating was working, as well as food being prepared. None of them could do it without the safety the security forces provided while enduring the weather.

Cots were pulled out of storage, meals were prepared and showers were found as people stuck inside the restricted area made the best of the situation.

“We were planned and ready for something like this to happen,” said Lt. Col. Mark Meyer, 50th Support Group deputy commander. “It’s times like this, regardless of the situation, when you need to be prepared. You never know when you’re not going home for a while.”

With the roads closed, people wanting to leave the base were stopped by the 50th Security Forces Squadron at the front gate and told they could not leave until the roads were clear.

“The toughest part of the storm was telling people at the front gate they couldn’t leave,” said Army Staff Sgt. Jason Zayakosky, 2/157 Field Artillery Battalion, Colorado Springs, activated reservist. “We could not risk the safety of the people wanting to leave.”

Having to stay vigilant was a key for the long shift pulled by the security forces troops. They were also prepared ahead of time due to the

leadership guidance of their flight chief, Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Montoya.

“The on-duty flight was expecting to get stuck out here for awhile,” said Lt. Col. Robert Washburn, 50th SFS commander. “The bottom line is they did their jobs so that Team Schriever could continue supporting the war efforts overseas.”

During the storm, the first wave of attacks hit Iraq with satellite-guided munitions. The operation tempo might have picked up there, but operations at Schriever stayed constant. Schriever is in its warfighting posture everyday.

Space assets at the 50th SW play a major role in wartime operations. The Global Positioning System provides all-weather navigation and targeting. Milstar satellite system provides non-jammable communications. The Defense Support Program, a theater early missile warning system that provides real-time, warning of threatening launches against American forces and their allies, is in place to save the lives of its most valuable assets-people.

Weather might stop planes, trains and automobiles, but it will not stop the 50th SW from providing an advantage to the fight-space.

## SPACE *from Page 1.*

strikes, Army division and brigades on the move, special operations units and those who relay critical information world wide.”

Milstar has provided U.S. Central Command enough communications capacity to handle more than 4,200 telephone calls in support of the initial wave of Operation Iraqi Freedom, said Smith. “As the operation progresses, we expect to see a steady increase in Milstar usage from the theatre of operations.”

Navigation, precision, missile warning and communications are being provided for the warfighter on the ground by military assets in the sky. Space is no longer just the ‘final frontier,’ but instead has become an active and critical player in military operations. Satellite assets save lives and aid commanders in military operations, and the 50th Space Wing allows that to happen.



photo by Airman 1st Class Mike Meares

Christian Pardue, 4th Space Operations Squadron, spikes the ball during a game in the season. In a best out of three match, 4th SOPS lost to 50th Civil Engineer Squadron 25-14 and 25-17.

Sports Briefs

Battling the bulge

Air Force Space Command continues to progress in its battle of the bulge and conflict with rising numbers of couch potatoes.

To emphasize this initiative, AFSPC has proclaimed March 28 as WarFit Day as a prelude to the new program.

Schedule of events are:  
7:30 a.m. - WarFit circuit training class (Fitness Center).

11 a.m. - Presentation and proclamation with Col. Mike Selva, fitness center annex pavilion

11 a.m. - WarFit Fun Run/Walk after presentation.

1:30 p.m. - WarFit Bicycle Blowout - 20 mile ride down Bradley Road and back.

For more information, call The HAWC at 567-7217.

Volleyball standings

Eastern Conference

|                                    |       |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| 2nd Space Operations Squadron A    | 4 - 0 |
| 50th Civil Engineer Squadron 1     | 4 - 0 |
| 4th SOPS/A                         | 3 - 1 |
| 1st SOPS                           | 3 - 2 |
| Space Warfare Center               | 2 - 2 |
| 3rd SOPS                           | 2 - 3 |
| 50th Operation Support Squadron A  | 1 - 3 |
| 50th Security Forces Squadron      | 0 - 4 |
| 50th Space Communications Squadron | 0 - 4 |

Western Conference

|                                 |       |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| 850th SCS                       | 4 - 0 |
| 50th Operations Group           | 3 - 1 |
| 4th SOPS B                      | 3 - 1 |
| 50th Mission Support Squadron   | 2 - 1 |
| 2nd SOPS B                      | 2 - 2 |
| 22nd SOPS                       | 1 - 2 |
| 50th Civil Engineers Squadron 2 | 0 - 4 |

Kickin' it up



photo by Airman 1st Class Mike Meares

Moving the ball down court was the key to the 50th Space Communications Squadron come from behind victory over the 2nd Space Operations Squadron in an indoor soccer tournament Friday. They overcame a 3-0 halftime deficit to claim the championship in a 4 - 3 victory.





# Predator

## Unmanned aircraft helps in ground war success

Louis A. Arana-Barradas  
Air Force Print News

**SAN ANTONIO** — Flying over coalition troops racing toward Baghdad, RQ-1 Predators are providing ground commanders up-to-the-second information on what lies ahead.

That is helping make the ground war a success by minimizing coalition troop losses, said Predator pilot Capt. Traz Trzaskoma by telephone.

“We immediately pass on any data we gather to the people on the ground who need it, and we provide it around the clock,” said Trzaskoma.

The Predator is a medium-altitude, long-endurance unmanned aircraft. It is mainly used for reconnaissance and surveillance missions, and the information gathered cuts battlefield “decision-making from hours to minutes,” Trzaskoma said.

“A special forces team was going into an area, and at the last minute (a Predator) saw their landing zone was not the best,” he said. “We helped change the mission at the last second. Then we helped them find a better place to land.”

The Predators in the fight to free Iraq are deployed from Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., supporting the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing at a base close to the fight. With their nearly 50-foot wingspans and four-cylinder engines, they can loiter over a battlefield for hours from altitudes



OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM –The Predator is a high-altitude unmanned aerial reconnaissance plane serving as eyes in the sky. Staff Sgt. Jeremy Lock

up to 25,000 feet.

The day- and night-time television cameras and radar also allow the aircraft to “see” through smoke, clouds and haze while capturing events as they happen. These abilities give the Predator an advantage over satellites or U-2 Dragon Lady aircraft, Trzaskoma said.

“We’ve been watching for where the bad guys hide, move or want to hide,” Trzaskoma said. “And if we’re carrying Hellfire missiles, we can take care of a target ourselves.”

Predators have, so far, not faced many threats over Iraq, he said. That could change as coalition forces get closer to the Iraqi capital. Still, the plane’s pilots and sensor operators do not ever go in harm’s way.

Trzaskoma, who once flew C-141 Starlifter cargo planes, has flown Predators a year and a half. He goes to work in a state-of-the-art ground control station. It is from there, miles away from the battlefield, that he flies the aircraft. The plane’s “co-pilot” is the sensor operator, who controls the cameras and radar.

Staff Sgt. Will Barrett has been a sensor operator for five years. Apart from backing up the pilot during a flight and operating the reconnaissance sensors, he also ensures the aircraft’s safety. He is the second set of eyes.

Barrett said the flying missions over Iraq have been exciting.

“There are a lot of things that we’re doing with this airplane that are playing a big part in this

fight we’re in,” Barrett said. “It’s rewarding knowing that what we’re doing is having such an impact on the ground forces and contributing to the war.”

Before each mission, Predator crews get an intelligence briefing. Staff Sgt. Alexander Britt, an intelligence applications specialist, does that job. He clues crews on threat conditions in the areas over which they will fly. His “info” helps the Predator survive over the battlefield.

Britt said that is an awesome feeling.

“The training back home is all good, no doubt, but it’s all (simulated),” he said. “Not here. The intel I provide helps keep the airplanes safe ... that’s mind blowing.”

The Predators do their job quietly in all weather, and though the composite birds are in the air around the clock, they have had few problems, said Staff Sgt. Randy Townsend, a Predator crew chief. Unlike crew chiefs of other aircraft, Predator crew chiefs do all the work on their charges.

“I catch it, launch it, service it and do all the maintenance on the engine,” said Townsend. As for how the aircraft is performing, he said, “We haven’t had any problems at all.”

Not a bad track record, Trzaskoma said, considering what the aircraft go through.

“We put ‘em in the air, one after another, every day of the week, in all kinds of weather ... they fly and keep doing the job,” he said. “They’re helping win this war.”

## Iraqi Freedom Coalition readies humanitarian aid

Marine Corp Gunnery Sgt.  
Charles Portman  
Special to American Forces Press Service

**CAMP AS SAYLIYAH, Qatar** — The U.S.-led coalition to disarm the Iraqi regime is poised to open massive channels of humanitarian assistance for the Iraqi people.

Millions of meals, medicines and other supplies for the Iraqi people are pre-positioned and ready for distribution, said Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks, CENTCOM deputy operations officer, at a press briefing here March 22.

“Our humanitarian work in Iraq is beginning,” Brooks said. “We are already preparing to push (the rations) forward as they are required.” He showed a video of a warehouse stocked full of humanitarian daily rations.

British Royal Marine Lt. Col. Jamie Marton said the strategic Umm Qasr port in southern Iraq, already secured by U.S. and British Marines, will ensure the continued flow of food and humanitarian supplies into Iraq.

“We are working with the international community to get humanitarian aid where it is needed most,” Marton said.

Initially, officials said coalition forces will manage and operate the Umm Qasr port with Iraqi civil laborers. The coalition plans to move humanitarian aid with the U.S. Agency for International Development and other non-governmental agencies such as the U.N. World Food Program.

“WFP is gearing up for potentially the largest humanitarian operation in its history,” said agency spokesperson Khaled Mansour at a March 21 press briefing in Amman, Jordan.

“With the majority of the Iraqi population set to run out of food in less than six weeks, the cost of covering their basic food needs could amount to over 1 billion U.S. dollars.”

To date, WFP has received about \$44 million from various donors, including \$40 million from the United States. “This has allowed the agency to secure sufficient food to cover the needs of 2 million people for one month,” Mansour said.

Army Gen. Tommy Franks, commander of Operation Iraqi Freedom, said one of his military objectives is “to end sanctions and to immediately deliver humanitarian support to the displaced, and to many needy Iraqi citizens.”

## Stealth fighters use new munitions to hit Baghdad

**OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM** — U.S. Air Force F-117 stealth fighters struck five strategic targets in Baghdad on March 21 using a new precision-guided munition, the EGBU-27, as coalition forces shifted the Operation Iraqi Freedom air campaign into high gear.

Using the low-observable, stealth technology of the F-117 to penetrate deep into Iraq and the improved bombs, the strike missions were able to precisely hit communication nodes and command bunkers in Baghdad late March 21, said Maj. Clint Hinote, an F-117 pilot assigned to the Combined Air Operations Center at a forward-deployed base in

Southwest Asia.

“The F-117 has been given some very tough assignments in this war and our people and aircraft have performed superbly. We are making important contributions to the coalition team working to disarm and liberate Iraq,” said Hinote.

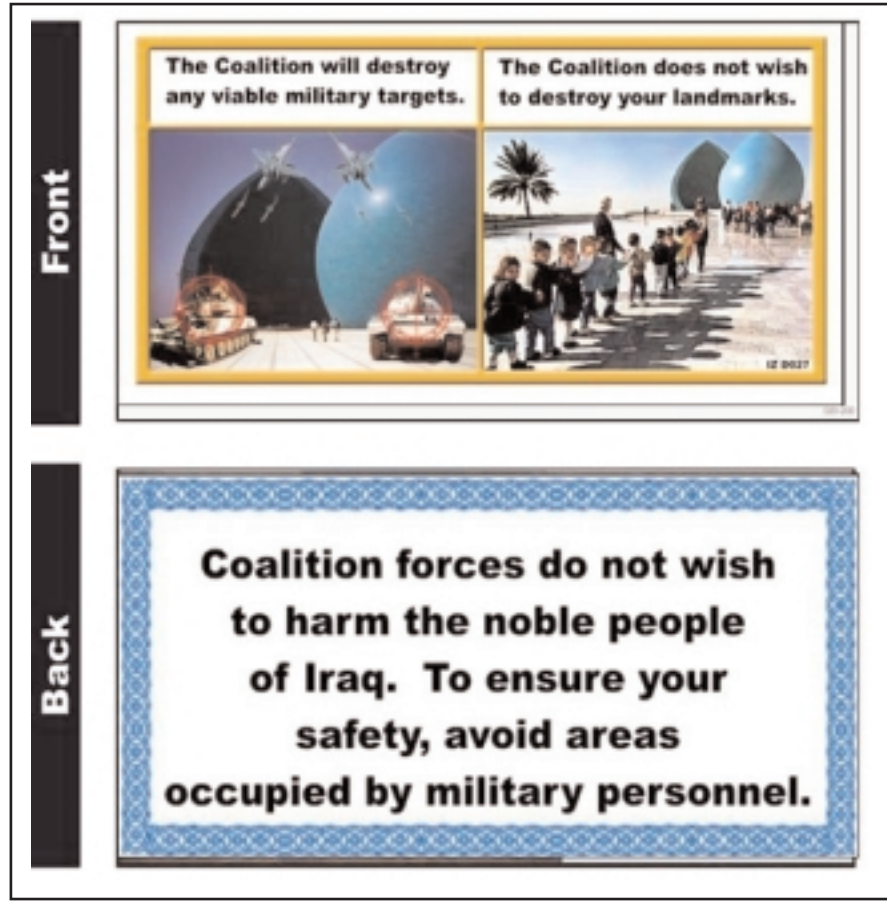
As every other coalition aircraft has done so far, the stealth fighters that flew these missions returned home safely.

The aircraft and their pilots are not the only stars of the mission. The new EGBU-27s are also playing an important part.

The “E” stands for “enhanced,” reflecting recent upgrades to the tradi-



# Leaflets: Coalition leaflets provide safety instructions to civilians



**OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM** — Coalition aircrews dropped more than a million informational leaflets into Iraq Sunday providing a variety of messages, including instructions to Iraqi civilians and military troops about how to stay safe during coalition military activities.

The leaflets are part of an ongoing effort to inform Iraqi civilians and military troops. More than two million leaflets were dropped Friday and Saturday.

The leaflets dropped today expressed a variety of messages. A sampling of messages are:

- For your safety, stay in your homes and away from military buildings.
- Do not use weapons of mass destruction.
- Saddam Hussein’s regime, not the Iraqi people, are the object of the operation.
- Tune to “information radio” for news and information.
- Instructions to Iraqi soldiers about how to surrender.

The leaflet drops are part of an information campaign that has been going on for months to support the disarmament of Iraq. Coalition forces have dropped more than 26 million leaflets since October 2002. The objective of the campaign is to inform Iraqi citizens and soldiers to achieve the disarmament and liberation of Iraq with minimum casualties.

Since Friday, the coalition has dropped more than five million leaflets over Iraq.

◀ This is an example of one of the informational leaflets dropped over Iraq.

## Keeping family close

**OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM** - With three American flags on board his F-15E Strike Eagle, Lt. Col. Matt Meloy prepares for a mission March 16 at a forward-deployed location in Southwest Asia. Two flags in the front of the canopy represent his two children and he carries one for his wife.